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A Look at the CIA

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota has urged that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee conduct an inquiry into the effects of operations of the Central Intelligence Agency "on the foreign policy of the United States."

The CIA has been accused at times of trying to make policy instead of carrying it out. It has been reported on occasion to be working at cross purposes with the State Department and even without the knowledge of the President.

As the body which must vote appropriations for the CIA and approve the nation's laws, including those relating to foreign policy, the Congress should be far better informed about the intelligence agency's secret operations. A senatorial investigation would help. But Sen. McCarthy's suggestion is another reminder that there has as yet been no implementation of the constructive proposal by many members of Congress for a permanent legislative committee to keep tabs on the CIA.